

Message Text

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ACTION CU-05

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TAGS:

SUBJ: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS -- OCTOBER 7-13, 1977

1. ATMOSPHERICS:

THE THAI MEDIA THIS WEEK GENERALLY REFLECTED THE PREOCCUPATIONS IN BANGKOK, IF NOT THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. INTERIOR MINISTER SAMAK GOT HIMSELF IN TROUBLE OVER THE QUESTION OF SECURITY FOR ROYAL FAMILY, WITH A WIDE RANGE OF BANGKOK ORGANIZATIONS, RANGING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, AND NEWSPAPERS WERE FREE TO REPORT THE PRESSURES ON SAMAK WHEN A DEMAND FOR HIS RESIGNATION WAS MADE IN THE APPOINTED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. TO A LESSER DEGREE, MINISTER OF EDUCATION PINYO CAME UNDER PRESSURE, PARTICULARLY FROM RIGHT-WING GROUPS, AND HE RETALIATED BY CLOSING A CENTER PREVIOUSLY MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM BY HIS MINISTRY.

THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER 6 COUP PASSED UNEVENTFULLY, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS MORE STIRRING AMONG THE RED GAUR AND VILLAGE
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SCOUTS IN BANGKOK THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE DURING THE PAST YEAR.

COMMENTING ON ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE OCTOBER 6 SIGNIFICANCE, A COLUMNIST IN SIAM RATH SARDONICALLY NOTED THAT IT MARKED THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF RESTRICTION ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS HERE.

THE MEDIA OF COURSE PAID CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO THE YEAR-END

REVIEWS PROVIDED ON RADIO AND TELEVISION BY ADMIRAL SANGAD AND PRIME MINISTER THANIN. THEY WERE PREDICTABLY UPBEAT.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, THE PRESS PLAYED UP AN EARLY AND ERRONEOUS REPORT FROM THE UN THAT THAILAND AND VIETNAM HAD DECIDED AT LAST TO EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS; AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S ASSURANCE TO LEE KUAN YEW THAT WE WOULD MAINTAIN U.S. NAVAL POWER IN THE AREA WAS ASSIGNED CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE BY LOCAL NEWSPAPERS.

AS REGARDS THE PRC, FORMER PRIME MINISTER KUKRIT PRAMOJ LEFT ON A TWELVE-DAY TOUR OF THAT COUNTRY, AT PEKING'S INVITATION, AND SUPREME COMMAND CHIEF KRIANGSAK DROPPED A FEW HINTS THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO BE INVITED FOR SUCH A TOUR.

2. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

FOLK-POP CONCERT: POST PRESENTED AMERICAN FOLK SINGER SANDRA JOHNSON IN ONE CONCERT TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, CONCERT WAS HELD AT 1730 HOURS TO ATTRACT YOUNG AUDIENCE AND, ALTHOUGH IT WAS FINAL WEEK OF EXAMD FOR BANGKOK UNIVERSITIES, BI-NATIONAL CENTER'S 700-SEAT AUDITORIUM WAS FULL. JOHNSON HAS BEAUTICFUL VOICE WHICH SHE USES IN AN IMPRESSIVE RANGE OF STYLES. PROGRAM TRACED AMERICAN FOLKSONGS FROM EARLY BRITISH TIMES THROUGH MODERN SONGS OF LOVE AND PROTEST. AUDIENCE SHOWED HIGHER LEVEL OF ENGLISH COMPREHENSION THAN EXPECTED. HUMOROUS SONGS AND JOHNSON'S INTRODUCTIONS WERE PUNCTUATED WITH LAUGHTER WHERE APPROPRIATE. FOLK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MUSIC IS ONE AMERICAN ART FORM THAT HAS READY AUDIENCE IN THAILAND.

ASSISTANCE FOR CIP: POST ASSISTED VISITING COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS REPRESENTATIVE MS. GEORGIA DRAKES IN INTERCIEWS TO SELECT 1978 CIP PARTICIPANTS. THE PROGRAM, WHICH MAKES POSSIBLE FOUR-MONTH AND THIRTEENK-MONTH WORKING VISITS TO THE U.S. FOR PERSONS IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL WORK AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP, DRAWS TOGETHER PEOPLE FROM THE ALL OVER THE WORLD. THREE PARTICIPANTS WERE CHOSEN FROM AN IMPRESSIVE GROUP OF APPLICANTS. ALL WILL PAY THEIR OWN WAY TO THE U.S. MCGINLEY

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